

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 have been examined. With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 8-15. Claim 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Support for the subject matter in new claims 8-10 may be found at least in Figs. 2A-2C. Support for the subject matter in claim 11 may be found at least at page 3, lines 27-29, of the specification. Support for the subject matter in claims 12 and 13 may be found at least at page 4, lines 22-30, of the Specification. Support for claim 14 may be found in claim 1 and at least at page 4, lines 28-30, and at page 5, lines 33-35, of the Specification. Support for claim 15 may be found in claim 5.

1. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for confirming receipt of the priority documents.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing the reference listed on form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 22, 2003.

2. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogg (US 6,290,615) ["Ogg"]. For at least the following reason, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a "golf ball comprising a plurality of linearly or curvilinearly extending ridge-like lands, which are separate from each other, on a spherical surface of the golf ball."

The object of the present invention is that flight performance of the ball is improved by increasing the percent coverage on the spherical surface of the golf ball by the dimple areas.

Although this object may be similar to that of Ogg, the present invention differs from Ogg with respect to the designs on the golf ball's surface, which is explained as follows.

Ogg discloses a golf ball with tubular projections (col.3, lines 26-29, Figures), and claim 1, lines 11-14 of Ogg describes that “---- each of the plurality of lattice members [are] connected to at least one other lattice member to form a predetermined pattern of polygons [mainly hexagons] about the plurality of smooth portions on the surface of the innersphere, ---.” Accordingly, Ogg discloses a ball surface where the plurality of lattice members are connected.

In direct contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites that the claimed plurality of linearly or curvilinearly extending ridge-like lands are separate from each other on the spherical surface. In particular, as described in the present specification, page 5, lines 33-37, the lands 3 of different shapes are properly arranged over the spherical surface rather than arranging the cavities 4, and as a result of such arrangement, the cavities 4 are concomitantly formed. Thus, there are no limitations with respect to the shape, size and numbers of cavities in the present invention. This configuration allows for a high degree of freedom in arranging the lands.

Also, in the present invention, there are no vertices (46), which are the congruence of three projections, as illustrated in the Figures of Ogg. Accordingly, the means or route for achieving better flight performance between the present invention and the invention in Ogg are patentably different. Therefore, the features of claim 1 are not anticipated by Ogg because the claimed lands that are separate from each other on the golf ball's surface are not disclosed or suggested by Ogg.

Applicant submits that claims 2, 3 and 5-7 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claim 4 and for indicating that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claim 4 in independent form. Please note that Applicant has modified the recitation "its spherical surface" to "a spherical surface of the golf ball" for clarity and precision of language in claim 4.

4. New Claims

With this Amendment, Applicant adds claims 8-15. Applicant submits that because independent claim 14 recites a feature similar to that given above with respect to claim 1, claim 14 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1. Applicant submits that claims 8-13 and 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies, as well as the features set forth therein.

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Serial No. 10/623,771

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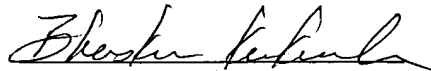
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